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## **DIVING WITH THE DOLPHINS**

*by F. Holmes (Skip) Atwater*

*As Dolphin Energy Club members are already aware, requests for DEC support totaled sixty at the end of September—the most ever in a three-month period! As the rhythm of change increases for individuals and the earth, the need grows. In response to this need, other organizations are working directly with sound and dolphins to discover how interaction with them benefits the human psyche and soma. Skip Atwater recently served as TMI liaison to an event sponsored by one such organization.*

From Friday, September 8, 1995, to Monday, September 11, 1995, I attended the Inaugural *International Symposium on Dolphin Assisted Therapy* as a symposium panelist representing The Monroe Institute. The symposium was held in Cancun, Mexico, and was organized by the AquaThought Foundation, located in Santa Monica, California. According to Chairman David M. Cole, the Foundation's mission is, "To advance mankind's understanding of consciousness and its relationship to healing and wellness." AquaThought's research focuses on the complex neurological stimulation provided by close interaction with dolphins.

After a Friday evening welcome and a Saturday conference and presentations, we spent Sunday on nearby Isla des Mujeres (Isle of Women) to swim with the dolphins at Dolphin Discovery. Our hosts were DEC member Donna Brewer and her husband, Lewis. Their facility is the site of the majority of AquaThought's research projects. Discussions between panelists and symposium participants continued through Sunday and into Monday morning.

During the symposium, I was able to provide information about the activities of the Institute in a congenial one-on-one setting, as well as to explore whether the Hemi-Sync® process could play a role in a virtual reality project being undertaken by AquaThought. Named Cyberfin, The Interspecies Interface™, it is designed to "transport the point of perception of the guest to an underwater location populated by friendly and inquisitive dolphins," complete with appropriate visual, audio, and tactile stimulation. Cyberfin would allow those unable to actually swim with dolphins to enjoy many of the benefits and pleasures of such contact.

The symposium audience was very receptive to my short presentation. Many spoke highly of the Institute, based on the testimonials of friends and associates. Several attendees had tried Hemi-Sync tapes, and one had been to a *GATEWAY VOYAGE*® several months earlier. If Hemi-Sync is to play a role in AquaThought's virtual reality project, I must learn more about their system, and the only fully operational unit is located in Santa Monica, California. While vacationing out west in the spring, I plan to accept the invitation to visit and share information. The AquaThought Foundation has a great deal of technical expertise in sound and brain-wave

analysis. They have had some experience with binaural beats and are very computer literate. A continuing relationship with them will enhance my own expertise in these areas. Many contacts were nurtured with the fifty to sixty people at the symposium.

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